

# TRIED HOBSON'S PLAN

## Assault on Port Arthur Planned for a Coup.

## TRY TO BLOCK HARBOR

## JAPS MADE DESPERATE STRUGGLE WITH TORPEDO BOATS.

## Four Merchant Steamers Sent Into Entrance of Harbor—Furious Bombardment Sinks the Vessels.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 25, 1:45 p.m.—No further details were available this morning of the unsuccessful attempt of the Japanese to bottle up the Russian fleet at Port Arthur by sinking big merchantmen at the mouth of the harbor. The brief details contained in the official dispatches indicate that the coup was planned, according to the usual Japanese tactics, to take place during the night, that it was desperately pushed and backed by eight torpedo boats, which continued fighting until daylight, but that it failed completely.

## Praise for the Retvizan.

Great praise is given to the Russian battle ship Retvizan, which lay outside the harbor entrance, for her gallant work in beating off the enemy. Her part in the action shows that the reports of the injuries which she is said to have sustained in the attack of February 8 were grossly exaggerated.

The official dispatches do not make clear the exact number of ships sent in for the purpose of blocking the throat of the harbor, or whether the four vessels destroyed were beached by the fire from the shore batteries or by the fire of the Retvizan. Consequently all the unknown additional details are expected from Viceroy Alexieff in the course of the day.

As he is at Mukden the report of the commander at Port Arthur first goes to him and thence is forwarded to the czar. The report that after daylight floating torpedoes were seen in the roadstead causes anxiety.

## Jap Fleet Visible.

According to the latest advices the Japanese fleet yesterday was still visible on the horizon. The news of the Japanese repulse was received here with great rejoicing and was looked upon as a final wiping out of the score against the enemy.

The official bulletins were given out too late for editorial comment, but the news of the initial success of the Russian arms was prominently displayed. Not one of the newspapers here has yet received special dispatches giving news of the Japanese repulse.

## Report From Port Arthur.

PORT ARTHUR, February 25.—At about 1 o'clock yesterday morning the Japanese made a desperate attempt to block the entrance of the inner harbor and dock. With this object, four merchant steamers, accompanied by torpedo vessels, were sent from two sides toward the entrance of the channel.

The movement was perceived by the Retvizan, which was lying in the channel, and which opened fire immediately. At the same time the guns of the forts on the Tjumen peninsula, Golden Hill and Electric Cliff, opened a heavy fire on the steamers. The Japanese cannonade ended, lasting until 5 in the morning. Then the firing slackened and the details of the attack were given.

## Four Steamers Sunk.

All four of the steamers were sunk. They were lying in the following positions: One behind the Golden Hill, one near the Retvizan, two between the entrance of the channel and the Lao-Thie-Shan peninsula. Two of the vessels are still burning. The cruisers Bayan and Novik pursued the Japanese torpedo flotilla. It is said that one of the torpedo boats was sunk.

## Fleet Steamed Away.

At about 9 in the morning, February 24, a Japanese squadron of considerable size approached Port Arthur, and the Bayan and Novik were ordered to face the Japanese ships, which, however, did not open fire. A few shells were fired away in the direction of Port Dalny. The cruiser Pallada has entered the dock here.

## Torpedo Boats Uninjured.

LONDON, February 25.—6:05 p.m.—The British foreign office has received an official dispatch saying that not one of the Japanese torpedo boats was injured in the attack on Port Arthur of Wednesday, February 24.

## Additional Details via Paris.

PARIS, February 25.—Additional details of the Japanese attempt to close the entrance of the harbor of Port Arthur have been received from most authoritative quarters. These say that the Japanese sent old transport hulks, conveyed by torpedo boats, to the entrance of the harbor, with the evident purpose of sinking the hulks at the entrance of the harbor.

## To Support Russian View.

PARIS, February 25.—It is the better in the highest official quarters that the powers will support the Russian view of the invalidity of the Japanese treaty with Korea, so far as it creates a Japanese protectorate over Korea, owing to the emperor's being under duress. But it is said that no immediate action on the part of the powers is required, as the question of the recognition of the protectorate will definitely arise when the terms of peace are discussed.

In the meantime official opinion here is strongly sympathetic with Russia's position, and it is considered that Russia's note to the powers protesting against Japan's violation of Korean neutrality fully protects international rights, as the protest antedates the official announcement of the conclusion of a treaty.

The foreign office considers the announcement confirmatory of the view that Russia's protest to the powers was designed to draw all her rights and to prevent international acceptance of the treaty establishing

No. 15,914.

WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1904—TWENTY PAGES. TWO CENTS.

## KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH.

### Foreign Secretary and French Ambassador Discuss War Situation.

LONDON, February 25.—Premier Balfour had sufficiently recovered his health to come from Brighton to this city today to preside at a cabinet meeting at noon prior to the meeting of the French ambassador, M. Cambon, called at the foreign office and had an hour's talk with Foreign Secretary Lansdowne.

The ambassador returned here from Paris yesterday evening, and apart from an exchange of views in regard to the most recent developments of the war, or those which subject the two cabinets are keeping in the closest touch with each other, there is good reason to believe that a settlement of all matters in dispute between France and Great Britain is on the eve of being arranged.

Such questions as Egypt, Morocco, Newfoundland, etc., have been discussed by the two governments for some months, and the differences are being gradually eliminated until practically nothing remains to prevent the signing of a treaty removing all outstanding obstacles to a complete accord between the two powers.

## No Designs on Spanish Coast Points.

Premier Balfour, who, on his first appearance in the house of commons since his illness, was greeted with warm cheers, replying to a question, confirmed the statement made in these dispatches February 20, that there was no truth in the reports that Great Britain intended to seize certain points on the Spanish coast in the event of a continental war.

"I am glad to say that the relations between this country and Spain are, and are likely to remain, of a most friendly character."

## Not Aware of Negotiations.

LONDON, February 25.—Replying to a question in the house of commons today, the foreign under secretary, Earl Percy, said the government was not aware of any negotiations between Germany and Russia whereby the two powers might agree in return for Germany affording Russia certain advantages during the war, Russia would support Germany in regard to the Baghdad railway question, a general extension of German predominance in Asia Minor.

## Disposition of Rescued Russians.

Asked in the house of commons today what authority it was proposed to detain at Ceylon the 325 Russian sailors rescued after the fight off Chempulpo, Premier Balfour said the sailors had sought refuge on a British warship. Under the circumstances the British government's policy is to agree upon the government thought it would best be fulfilling the obligations of neutrality by internment of the men in British ships until the close of the war.

The Japanese government, however, had now intimated that it was willing the sailors should return to Russia on giving their word not to take part in any further war. The British government was now in correspondence with Russia, with the view of settling the question on this basis.

## To Patch Up Battle Ships.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 25.—The battle ships Retvizan and Cesarevitch will be repaired and employed at Port Arthur as guardships in which capacity it has been decided their formidable guns can be utilized to good advantage. It has been found that the necessary repairs to these ships can only be fully made in the dock at Vladivostok, and the vessels will be temporarily patched up and remain at Port Arthur until circumstances will permit of their being sent to Vladivostok.

## PORT ARTHUR VULNERABLE.

### Japs Claim That Alexieff's Withdrawal Supports This Opinion.

TOKYO, Tuesday, February 23 (Delayed in transmission).—Advices are hourly anticipated here of the third naval engagement which has taken place at Port Arthur. It was known that the fleet under command of Admiral Togo had been in motion, but the nature of the operation about to be undertaken had not been disclosed to the navy department.

The latter admits anticipating information, but it does not expect to receive any before Wednesday. It is thought here that Admiral Togo first attacked with his torpedo boats and then shelled Port Arthur. The opinion expressed by the foreign ministry here is, however, almost united against the ability of the Japanese ships to shell the place without dangerous exposure to the heavy guns of the shore batteries.

## Vulnerable at Three Points.

The Japanese, however, are confident that the place is vulnerable at three points on the sea side, and in proof of their opinions is the explosion of a number of shells in the town on the occasion of the recent night fight.

The Japanese once possessed Port Arthur and they have the most complete information as to its defenses. It is thought here that a bombardment of the place should prove highly destructive, as it is narrow and the Japanese shells are being hurled into the basin holding the bay and town could not fall to do serious execution.

## Japs Shells Very Effective.

The Japanese shells are charged with a high explosive and are very effective, and it is believed possible to render the harbor untenable for Russian warships by bombardment and force them to put to sea and fight in the open of the sea.

It is thought here that the withdrawal of Admiral Alexieff from Port Arthur and the removal of headquarters and records to Harbin is an admission of the weakness of the place and of its inability to make a sustained defense.

It is believed that the Japanese intend to make a vigorous onslaught on Port Arthur, and to use the base as a springboard for a naval base and insure the Japanese a base for future operations on the Liaotung peninsula.

## Eastern War Notes.

Russian victories advanced south of Anju have cut the telegraph wires between Anju and Ping Yang.

The czar telegraphed warm congratulations to Viceroy Alexieff and the entire Russian squadron at Port Arthur on the able manner in which they repulsed the latest attack of the Japanese.

Yi-Yong-Ik, who was formerly minister of war and practically the dictator of Korea, and considered a friend of Russia, has been taken by the Japanese at Chempulpo and on the same night put on board of a warship which took him to Japan. He went on board in court dress.

It is reported that the Chinese foreign office has agreed to allow the Russian garrisons to remain at Shanghai on the condition that she dismantles her powder magazines and her arsenals at that place. Akitsuha (which arrived at Woo-Sung near here, February 19, to wait for the Mandjur) proceeded north yesterday.

The war office tells the Associated Press that there is no truth whatever in the rumor published yesterday by the Manchester Dispatch that the 1st (British) Army

## DR. MARY WALKER COMPLAINS.

### Postal Authorities Promise to Remove Her Grievance.

Dr. Mary Walker called at the Post Office Department this morning with reference to some difficulty she says she has been having with the mail boxes on a property near Osgood, N. Y. The department promised to remedy the trouble and the doctor seemed happier. She was garbed in the familiar frock coat and trousers with which she has been associated for so many years, a silk hat crowning her gray locks, that were parted on the side and cut rather short, and over her shoulders she wore a long minkskin cape. Boots of the time succeeded her feet, and a long silk muffler was wound around her neck. She flitted from room to room, making her anti-Boycott associates feel. She told some of them that she had known their predecessors ever since the first term of President Grant, and to one of the chief clerks said that he had risen in the world since she saw him last, when he was a messenger boy.

## OPPOSED GROSVENOR BILL.

### Daniel Davenport Heard by the House Judiciary Committee.

Daniel Davenport of Bridgeport, Conn., representing, as an attorney, the American Anti-Boycott Association, the Chicago Building Trades Council and the National Builders' Trades Association, made an extended argument before the House committee on judiciary today against the Grosvenor bill to limit the meaning of the word "conspiracy" and the use of restraining orders and injunctions. Mr. Davenport stated that he was associated with James Beck, who is present, but that he was strengthening some of her garbisons.

The judiciary committee room was filled with friendly and earnest opponents of the measure. Mr. Davenport is to be questioned by the representatives of labor, who favor the bill, at the close of his general argument.

He began by stating his objection to the bill. He said it would make lawful agreements between associations of employers and labor unions by which a non-member of either body would be excluded and boycotted, in certain respects it would tend to legalize "Sam Parker" because extortion, which he declared was practiced by members of such combinations as he had referred to, would be made lawful by passage of the bill; it would take away from the states the right to declare criminal acts like the boycott.

## IRRIGATION IN WYOMING.

### An Increase Since 1899 of 167,235 Acres of Water Area.

The census bureau has issued a report on irrigation in Wyoming in 1902, showing 5,550 farms reported irrigation, with an irrigated area of 778,111 acres, an increase of 167,235 acres, or 23 per cent over 1899. In 1902 3,635 irrigation systems were in use, representing a total construction cost of \$4,701,040, an average of \$1,299 per system, and \$6 per irrigated acre. The total length of main canals, or ditches, in 1902 was 6,237 miles, an increase of two miles over 1899. In 1902 the number of systems was 2,629; the cost, \$3,973,105. This is an increase of 15 per cent in systems and 18 per cent in cost.

In the northern and western portions of the state the water supply was very short, and the greatest increase in irrigation was made therein. In the drainage basin of the Platte the supply was very short, and it is probable that crops failed to mature on several thousand acres because the supply was insufficient for more than one watering.

## POSTAL CONTROVERSY.

### John Brisben Walker Complains of Discrimination.

A controversy has been entered into with the Post Office Department by John Brisben Walker, editor of the Cosmopolitan Magazine and of the Twentieth Century Home, growing out of the charge by Mr. Walker that the latter named magazine was denied the privileges of the second-class mails through the action of the third assistant postmaster general, who has that class of mail matter charged by Walker against that his publication was denied the privileges asked for it, while the Post Office Department, through Third Assistant Madden, denies the charge and says that Mr. Walker misstates the case.

According to the Post Office Department, Mr. Walker did not comply with the postal rules and regulations in making application for the admission of his magazine to the mails, and it was consequently denied him. When he later did comply with the rules the magazine was promptly admitted to the privileges accorded such publications by law.

## EX-GOV. ALLEN HERE.

### Calls at the State and War Departments.

Charles H. Allen, the first civil governor of Porto Rico under American rule, called at the State and War Departments today to pay his respects to Secretaries Hay and Taft. Mr. Allen has just been chosen to the post of vice president of the Morton Trust Company of New York to fill the vacancy caused by the death of William C. Whitney. Mr. Allen will consequently be called to reside in New York for the remainder of the year, but will maintain his habitual residence in Lowell, Mass.

## Movements of Naval Vessels.

The Navy Department has been informed of the arrival of the second torpedo boat flotilla, consisting of the Russian torpedo destroyers Hippo and Wordon, and the gunboat Eagle, at Key West; the first torpedo boat flotilla, consisting of the cruiser Buffalo and the torpedo-boat destroyers Decatur, Dale, Barry, Chauncey and Bainbridge, have arrived at Port Said, en route to Manila. The gunboats Annapolis and Frodo have arrived at Shanghai.

## Russian Receipts and Expenditures.

Commercial Agent R. T. Greener of Vladivostok, Siberia, reports by official announcement that the Russian revenues during the year 1901 were as follows: The ordinary revenues, as estimated, were \$75,549,443.00, and actually collected, \$93,721,429.83. The ordinary expenditures, as estimated, were \$83,176,096.34, and actually expended, \$87,159,435.51. The extraordinary revenues, as estimated, were \$77,250,000, and the amount actually collected was \$84,416,002.23. The extraordinary expenditures, as estimated, were \$32,441,896.75, whereas the amount actually expended was \$100,415,551.12.

## For Pan-American Building.

A proposed amendment to the sundry civil bill by Senator Fairbanks appropriates \$75,000 for the share of the United States in a building in this city to be used as permanent quarters for the International Bureau of American Republics and the Columbian Memorial Library; also an additional \$50,000 for the purchase of a site for that building.

## STRIVING TO RESUME

### Disparity Between Losses and Insurance Payments.

BALTIMORE PROBLEMS

### TO CARE FOR 8,000 IDLE WORKING PEOPLE.

### Many Families Seek Assistance—Business Houses Reducing Their Forces—Army of Unemployed.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.  
BALTIMORE, Md., February 25.—The full magnitude of the conflagration is just beginning to be felt by the business interests of the city. While all the merchants were agreed that the loss was tremendous, an adequate appreciation of the real extent of the disaster did not begin to make itself felt until a general resumption of business was undertaken.

Though nearly all the larger business concerns that were burned out are striving to resume, a host of smaller ones, whose life depended upon the prosperity of the large concerns, have gone out of business. The great disparity between the fire loss and the amount of insurance to be paid tells a story of loss that some one will have to bear.

A vast sum of insurance money is being brought into the city, but it is not regarded by business men as anywhere near the sum required to meet the considerable community back into the place occupied before the fire.

## Eight Thousand Idle.

The 8,000 male wage-earners who the fire made idle, however, do not mean point out, must be gotten work of some kind or they will be compelled to seek work outside of the city.

According to Jacob G. Schonfarber, assistant labor statistician, between that and 10,000 were thrown out of work by the fire. Estimating that four persons in a family were dependent upon these, he thinks that about 35,000 persons were affected in some way. About 500 salesmen, clerks, etc., were unemployed, and the names of all the labor bureau. For these people Mr. Schonfarber said, it is very hard to obtain employment. He added this morning: "The men are not fitted for laboring, and business houses that are resuming business do not need any help. In fact, they are cutting down their usual forces."

## Cutting Down Working Forces.

"In order to obtain as near as possible the exact number of persons made idle by the fire, we are sending to all business houses a blank form, which when filled out, will reveal how many persons they employed before the fire, and how many they now use."

From replies so far received there has been a general cutting down of the forces by business houses. It may be that later they will increase their force to the size before the fire, but that will depend wholly upon business conditions. The names of persons thrown out of employment by the fire are being furnished to the citizens relief committee for such aid as these persons may require.

"The great trouble with these sufferers is that they cannot be put at laboring work. They have held office positions, and the general contraction of business has cut down the demand."

## Resumption of Building.

"A resumption at once of building operations might benefit these people indirectly. At all events, building operations will put to work thousands now idle and thus reduce the strain upon the others. Activity in the building trades will develop other lines of work and thus procure employment for others."

Michael J. Howe, secretary of the building section of the Federation of Labor, said he looked forward to an unprecedented activity in all trades.

"It is going to be a great year for all mechanics," said he. "There will be an abundance of work for all trades, and a great many that will doubtless come from neighboring cities. As soon as building operations are begun you will find that there will be a great scarcity of mechanics. Everybody will want to build at once. While plenty of work for the trades will reflect itself in a sense of business, I fear the great army of clerks, salesmen, etc., will have to suffer until there is a great expansion in business. There has been a great contraction of business, and this has put me in a great deal of trouble. Yet the prospects of great activity in the trades cannot but have a beneficial effect on the whole community."

## 300 Families Seek Assistance.

Since the fire about 300 families have applied for aid to the Charity Organization Society.

"The most acute distress," said Secretary Walter S. Uford, "is among the clerks who worked for small salaries. These people don't want to accept charity in the form of dollars and cents. They want work."

But I cannot see how positions are to be secured for them. Contraction of business is compelling the business houses to reduce their forces, much less augment them."

The demand upon the charity organization, it is feared, will increase in the weeks ahead. The most of business houses that undertook to retain all their employees are now compelled by a general contraction of business to reduce their forces. As an instance, the Baltimore and Annapolis railroad has laid off a big army of its clerks that were formerly employed in the central building Calvert and Baltimore streets.

Quite a number of them may be put on again later when the office affairs have been straightened out.

## ELECT DIRECTORS.

### Annual Meeting of the Northern Central Railway Stockholders.

BALTIMORE, February 25.—At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northern Central railroad, held here today, directors were elected as follows: John P. Green, H. Walters, J. D. Cameron, Luther S. Bent, N. Parker Shortridge, Charles E. Pugh, Wayne MacFay, Michael Jenkins, S. M. Preston, A. Loudon Snowden, Samuel Rea and J. B. Thayer, Jr. The only change in the board is the appearance of the name of John B. Thayer, Jr. in place of M. H. Arnot, who retired.

The board elected the following officers: President, A. J. Cassatt; first vice president, John P. Green; second vice president, Charles E. Pugh; third vice president, S. M. Preston; fourth vice president, Samuel Rea; fifth vice president, J. B. Thayer, Jr.; secretary, Stephen W. White; treasurer, A. W. Hendrix.

The annual report of the Northern Central Railroad Company for the year ended December 31, 1903, was submitted. It shows gross earnings of \$1,310,084, an increase of \$1,851,401, or 22 per cent over 1902. The improvement was due mainly to the anthracite coal traffic, which was exceptionally large after the long strike of the preceding year.

## DISASTROUS FIRES.

### Two Lives Lost at Colorado Springs—Other Conflagrations.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., February 25.—Two lives were lost in a fire that destroyed three buildings and threatened the entire business section of the city today.

The dead are: Lela Smith, a fifteen-year-old girl, and a man whose name remains unchanged beyond recognition.

The girl perished in her room at a lodging house, from which her mother, Mrs. Mary Smith, escaped by jumping. The remains of the man were found in the debris lodged between the timbers of two buildings that had burned. The loss in property is about \$100,000. Three horses were burned in their stalls and three others had to be shot.

The fire is supposed to have been started by tramps in a livery stable adjoining the lodging house.

## New York Skyscraper Escapes.

NEW YORK, February 25.—Fire in the subcellar of the twenty-five-story building of the American Tract Society, corner of Nassau and Spruce streets, early today filled the lofty skyscraper with dense clouds of smoke, and, occurring during the "rush hour" when Park road Brooklyn bridge "rush hour" when Park road was packed with business men and workers in the financial district, attracted the attention of immense crowds of spectators.

The smoke found its way through the six elevator shafts to every part of the building, and forced its way through the upper stories and forced its way into the adjoining building, which also was rendered uninhabitable for a long time. The only persons in the building when the fire broke out were the janitors' families and twenty-two scrubwomen. Some of these narrowly escaped suffocation, but an elevator was kept running until all had been taken out safely. The damage was estimated at \$30,000, confined largely to the basement and subcellar.

## Business Section Wiped Out.

CONNEAUT, Ohio, February 25.—Fire today practically wiped out the business portion of Conneaut Harbor. Among the buildings burned were the Mutual block and the Marine Bank building, with their contents, including the Marine Bank, the post office and several stores. Loss estimated at \$100,000, partially covered by insurance.

## Archbishop Farley Receives a Cordial Audience With the Pope.

ROME, February 25.—The pope today received in private audience the Most Rev. John M. Farley, archbishop of New York, and conversed with him for a long time in the most cordial manner, the archbishop having met the pontiff two years ago at Venice and the pope remembering with satisfaction the particulars of the meeting. Their conversation was carried on in Italian.

Archbishop Farley presented a letter from Cardinal Gibbons thanking the pope in the name of the trustees of the Catholic University at Washington for the support he had immediately after he was created pope, endorsing the resolution of the trustees for the general collections in the United States for the benefit of the university. The first collections having totaled \$110,000. The pope was most pleased to hear of the great interest of the university, expressed the greatest sympathy with the archbishop, Baltimore and said he was glad the fire had been confined to the business section of the city. The pontiff also referred with admiration to the report he had received that Baltimore would rebuild the destroyed city without outside help, and exclaimed: "It is the true American spirit. You do everything on a grand scale, even in the case of fire."

## President Harper Has a Relapse.

CHICAGO, February 25.—President William R. Harper of the University of Chicago has suffered a relapse of his recent attack of appendicitis, and again is under the closest attention of his physicians. His exact condition is not known to others than the attending physicians and the members of his family, but it is feared at the university that he will return in a more serious form than before.

## Important Land Decision.

VANCOUVER, Wash., February 25.—The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in awarding the "overlap lands" to the Northern Pacific railway will affect almost two thousand persons in this country. The contested grants comprise all the odd sections in the northern and western portion of Clark county, most of it being the timber, grazing and farm land.

On this land the government has issued 1,895 patents, and many of the patentees have made their homes there for years because of the great value of the property. The suit has been bitterly fought through the courts for the past ten years, and thousands of dollars have been expended to defray the cost.

Should it be impossible to make the railroad company settle other lands under the land act, the settlers must suffer the hardship of buying their land over again from the company or forfeit their farms and the improvements.

## KILLED IN A SNOWSLIDE.

### Captain Avery Henderson Loses His Life in Idaho.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.  
IPPER SANDUSKY, Ohio, February 25.—Capt. Avery Henderson, well known in the republican executive committee, was killed yesterday in a snow slide at Roosevelt, Idaho. No details have been obtained as yet.

## CREATES SENSATION

### Government Counsel Says Samuel Groff is Innocent.

### POST OFFICE INQUIRY

### MAJ. HOLMES CONRAD COMPLETES HIS ARGUMENT.

### His Admission Regarding Groff Designated a Great Move—Titus With Defendants' Counsel.

What is considered by attorneys to be the greatest move on the part of counsel representing the government in the trial of the alleged postal fraud cases was made this morning when Maj. Holmes Conrad declared he did not believe Samuel A. Groff, one of the defendants, should be convicted. This statement created a stir in the court room. Mr. Conrad, who has been the guiding star for the government in the prosecution of August W. Machen, Geo. E. Lorenz and Diller B. and Samuel A. Groff, had brought the spectators and court officials to an impressive silence by his eloquence.

"My duty as a lawyer is not a plea," said the veteran counsel, "compels me to say to you that there has not been enough evidence adduced at this trial to convict Samuel A. Groff."

"He was not present when his brother Diller made the alleged contract with Lorenz, nor does he appear to have had any knowledge of the nature of the transactions between them. Therefore, it is my honest belief that you cannot find Sam Groff guilty."

Sam Groff was visibly affected, but nothing more than significant glances were exchanged between the two brothers. The spectators craned their necks to get a look at the second of the five defendants to be practically acquitted while the trial was in progress. Orders were restored by the court and the proceedings continued.

## Remarkable Bit of Cleverness.

Attorneys during the noon recess referred to Major Conrad's move as a remarkable bit of cleverness, because it will not give the jury an opportunity to say that they do not believe Sam guilty, and that if one of the alleged conspirators gets off all of them should be acquitted. It is argued that by admitting the innocence of Samuel Groff the prosecution has made a much stronger case against his brother Diller and Lorenz and Machen.

This is the last day of the famous postal trial, which has dragged itself out over eight long, weary weeks. Major Holmes Conrad, the best of the counsel, yesterday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock, as stated in The Star, he resumed this morning by making his references to the evidence which he had already discussed, namely, the placing of the burden of proof and the admission of circumstantial evidence. He continued his references to the evidence of the afternoon session of the court had convened, having surprised even his fellow attorneys by his display of physical strength. Mr. Conrad had to rest three times yesterday in the hour in which he spoke, and it was predicted that he would not be well enough to talk much more than an hour today.

But with the help of United States District Attorney Morgan H. Beach, who read certain of his more pertinent documents, the senior counsel for the government talked more than three hours of his case, and his convincing arguments of the entire trial. His gray hairs, his erect figure and with his earnest and honest manner were factors in swinging the jury in favor of the defendants, whether or not the same was true of the jurors.

## Looked for Mountain in Vain.

At the conclusion of his address Maj. Conrad declared Mr. Charles A. Douglas had announced he would erect "a mountain so high as to be unsurmountable by the prosecution, and through which my esteemed brother Conrad will be able to place the great evidence of the case to tunnel." He said he had looked vain for that mountain, but had not even discovered a molehill. He saw nothing which he had not completely destroyed, and he placed the counsel of the defendants of straw which he had himself erected for no other purpose than demolition.

## Important Point.

What is regarded as the most important point, however, outside of the acknowledgment that Sam Groff is innocent, was made by Major Conrad when he declared that not a single letter had been produced by the defendants which must have accompanied the remittances from Diller Groff to Lorenz. He said the government had to prove the existence of the checks before the defense offered them in evidence, but that the government had no means to prove the existence of the letters they were concealed, and placed the burden of proof on the defendant of the letters, saying it was impossible to have sent all the remittances without some letters or receipts.